



ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

*St John's Church, New Alresford ♦ St Mary's Church, Old Alresford
St Peter's Church, Ovington ♦ All Saints Church, Bighton*

September 26th 2021 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Harvest Festival at St John's

Services this Sunday:

09.30: St John's:	Harvest Festival
11.00: St Mary's:	Morning Praise
11.00: All Saints:	Morning Prayer

*God whose farm is all creation, take the gratitude we give
Take the finest of our harvest, crops we grow that men may live.*

John Arlott



Benefice website: www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

This week's notices...

Services this Sunday:

The 9.30am service at St John's is **Harvest Festival** with Sue Armstrong. The service will be streamed live as usual, and the link to a recording of the service will be emailed out and will also be on the Benefice website. At our Sunday worship we will be continuing to screen the words of our hymns, but if you prefer to use a hymn book do please take one from the shelves at the back of the church and return it at the end of the service.

The service at St Mary's is **Morning Praise**, also with Sue Armstrong, and at All Saints the service is **Morning Prayer** with Ian Waring Green. There is no service today at St Peter's.

Friday 10am Communion Service at St John's:

The next service is on **Friday 24th September**, the celebrant being Canon Graham Trasler.

The service will also be streamed live via the St John's Facebook page. A recording of the services will be emailed out later for viewing on YouTube, and the link will also be on the Benefice website.



A copy of the service sheet and sermon will be available on the website.

Please note: there will be no 10am service on Friday 8th October. The next one will be Friday 22nd October.

COVID precautions in St John's:

PCC discussions have concluded that, recognising the release of Government restrictions, the wearing of masks in church is no longer mandatory but please feel free to wear a mask if you wish.

Mothers Union:

The next meeting of the Mothers Union will be on Tuesday 28th September in the John Pearson Hall at 2pm for 2.30pm. Jane Horne will be our speaker on this year's theme. Visitors are welcome.

Info: Heather Galley 732326 Margaret Stewart 735185.

Giving at St John's:

If you would like to make a contribution to church funds with a debit or credit card, this can usually be done at the back of the church after the main services, or by phoning David Griffiths on 01962 734408.

Prayer requests: If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact Rosie Waring Green:

rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.



This week's notices...

Flowers in St John's:

The chancel flowers have been sponsored by Rene Hudman for a friend's birthday.



If you would like to sponsor a pedestal please contact Diana Robbins on 01420 565668 or email: dianarobbins@me.com.

ITCHEN STOKE & OVINGTON VILLAGE FETE

**Sunday, Sept. 26th
2.30 - 5 pm**



Teas, games, stalls, pony rides and fly casting

Entrance is £3 for adults, Under 16's are free

Please note this is a cash only event
Well-behaved dogs are allowed, on leads

Green Tips:

Don't forget to send in your green tips. You can use the form, a separate piece of paper or email them to stjohnscreationcare@gmail.com. It doesn't matter, the sole purpose is to share ideas and encourage others to try them. Blank forms are at the back of the Church. No names will be used when ideas are published.

For Magazine Distributors:

The October magazines will be ready for collection on Friday 1st October.

St John's Light Party:

It is two years since we were able to have a Light Party at St John's!! We would love to invite any Infant and Junior children to come along on Saturday 30th October between 4.30 and 6.30pm to the John Pearson Hall for fun, food and light activities.

We would also like to ask if there are any Secondary youngsters or adults who would be able to help us with the activities on the day and prepping some activities beforehand? £5 per child or £3.50 per child if more than one child per family. More details are on the church website under Upcoming Events.

Do get in touch to book your place or offer help - Rosie Waring Green rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662.

This week's notices...

SUNDAY@6 is NOW on the FIRST Sunday of the month

6pm Sunday 3rd October 2021 at St John's



We would love you to join everyone for a service with a reflective informal contemporary feel.

Worship, Readings, Prayer and a Talk.

Time to chat with tea and cake from 5.45pm

Please save the date

Apple Day at St John's is only a week away...



... on **Saturday 2nd October** 11am to 3pm, followed by the **Apple Day Finale Concert** at 7.15pm.

We need you to be there and to sign up to help at the Café and to purchase concert tickets!

Come hungry, in need of activities, entertainment and information.

See you there!

St John's Vacancies:

Two more jobs are shortly becoming vacant. Please would you consider filling one of them? A comprehensive handover will be arranged, and you would be joining friendly and welcoming teams, as part of the generous band of volunteers who keep St John's a safe and pleasant place to be:

Churchyard Manager: After many years of conscientious service Chris Lillywhite is stepping back from this role. Chris has provided wise counsel on all 'outdoor matters', supervised the upkeep of our grounds and garden machinery and rallied the troops on our twice yearly churchyard clear-ups. We are immensely grateful to Chris, and we hope he would agree that the task has been an enjoyable one.

Health and Safety Co-ordinator: Greville Dawson has been filling this role for some time, alongside the significant amount of work he does for us in relation to the fabric of the church. We are looking for someone to take on Health and Safety oversight from November. Do please speak to Greville to see what the role entails.

Please direct:

- ▶ **Material for notices:** email notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk
Deadline: 3pm Thursday.
- ▶ **Information about those in hospital to Sue Greenway 732406 or Patricia Todd 738408 or Keith Sweetland 735255.**
- ▶ **Information for Intercessions to the churchwardens.**

Readings for Harvest Festival at St John's

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26.1-11

To be announced as a Reading from Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people, saying: When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

At the end the reader will say: This is the Word of the Lord

The response is: Thanks be to God



Gospel: Mark 4.26-32

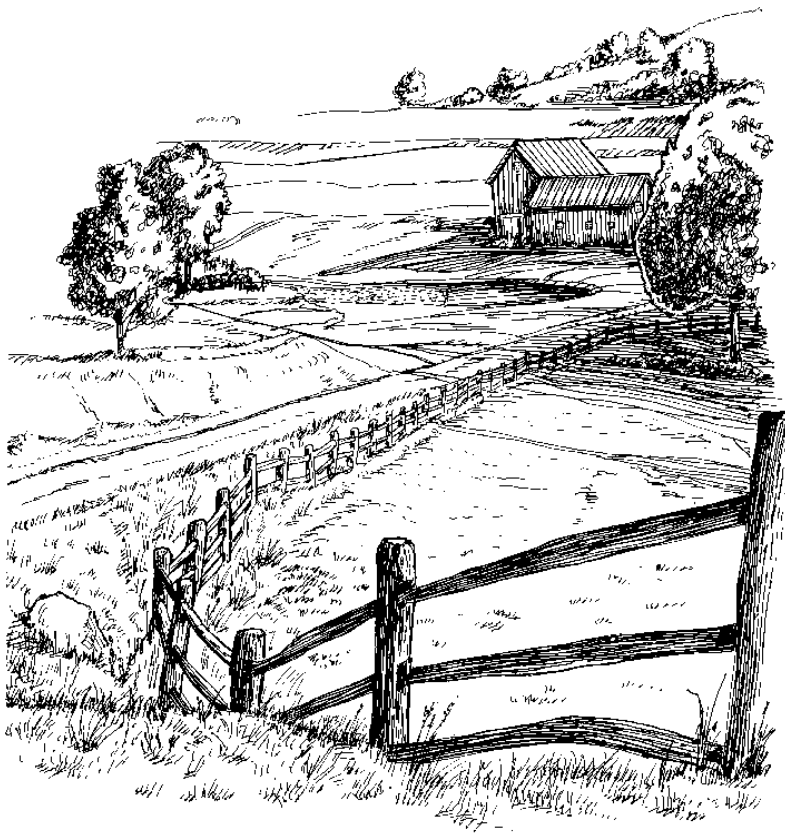
When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Gospel of the Lord**
The response is: **Praise to you, O Christ***



Readings for Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

First Reading: James 5.13-20

To be announced as a Reading from the Epistle of James

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one

another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord**
The response is: **Thanks be to God***



Gospel: Mark 9.38-50

*When the Gospel is announced we respond with:
Glory to you, O Lord*

John said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Gospel of the Lord**
The response is: **Praise to you, O Christ***

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For Prayer

Please pray for:

- Those who are in **hospital**
- Those who are ill **at home** or recovering from being in hospital
- Those **receiving on-going care**
- Those in **Nursing and Rest Homes**
- **Home Communicants**
- **R.I.P.** Those who have recently died. We pray too for their families.

Please pray for...

The world, especially Afghanistan and all those individuals affected by the recent mistakes and who now feel more at risk. Pray for the people of La Palma as their towns and villages are destroyed by the volcano.

World leaders as they prepare for COP26. Pray that all countries take the threat of climate change seriously and together work out strategies to minimise the effects.

Continue to pray that **vaccines may become more readily available** to poorer countries, to protect their people but also to protect the rest of the world from Covid.

All who will struggle to pay their bills this winter with the combination of massive gas price rises and a reduction in some benefits. Help us all to be more generous in our support of the **Basics Bank** this week as we celebrate Harvest Festival.

Our Diocese, for David, Debbie and Tim, and for Heather as she prepares to lead us. Pray that she gets the support she will need, from us and the wider church.

All who are sick, those suffering with long Covid, and young people struggling to deal with depression and other mental health issues, often alone without medical help. Give thanks for our local surgery and all who work long hours in our hospitals.

Apple Day and Harvest Festival, both celebrations of God's creation and generosity. May both events lift the spirits of all who are able to enjoy them.

Please continue to pray for **Valsa Augustine and all the staff at Shanthigramam village**, who are deeply grateful for our support and prayers for their work with leprosy-affected elderly residents. May they be able to continue this important work.

In these crops of your creation, take, O God: they are our prayer.